166: SEM RENDIÇÃO

SKYBOUND

THE WALKING DEAD™

KIRKMAN ADLARD GAUDIANO RATHBURN

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116

GUARDIÕES DO GLOBO
SQ SQUADRINHOS
O FUTURO DOS QUADRINHOS
25 image
FUND. 1992

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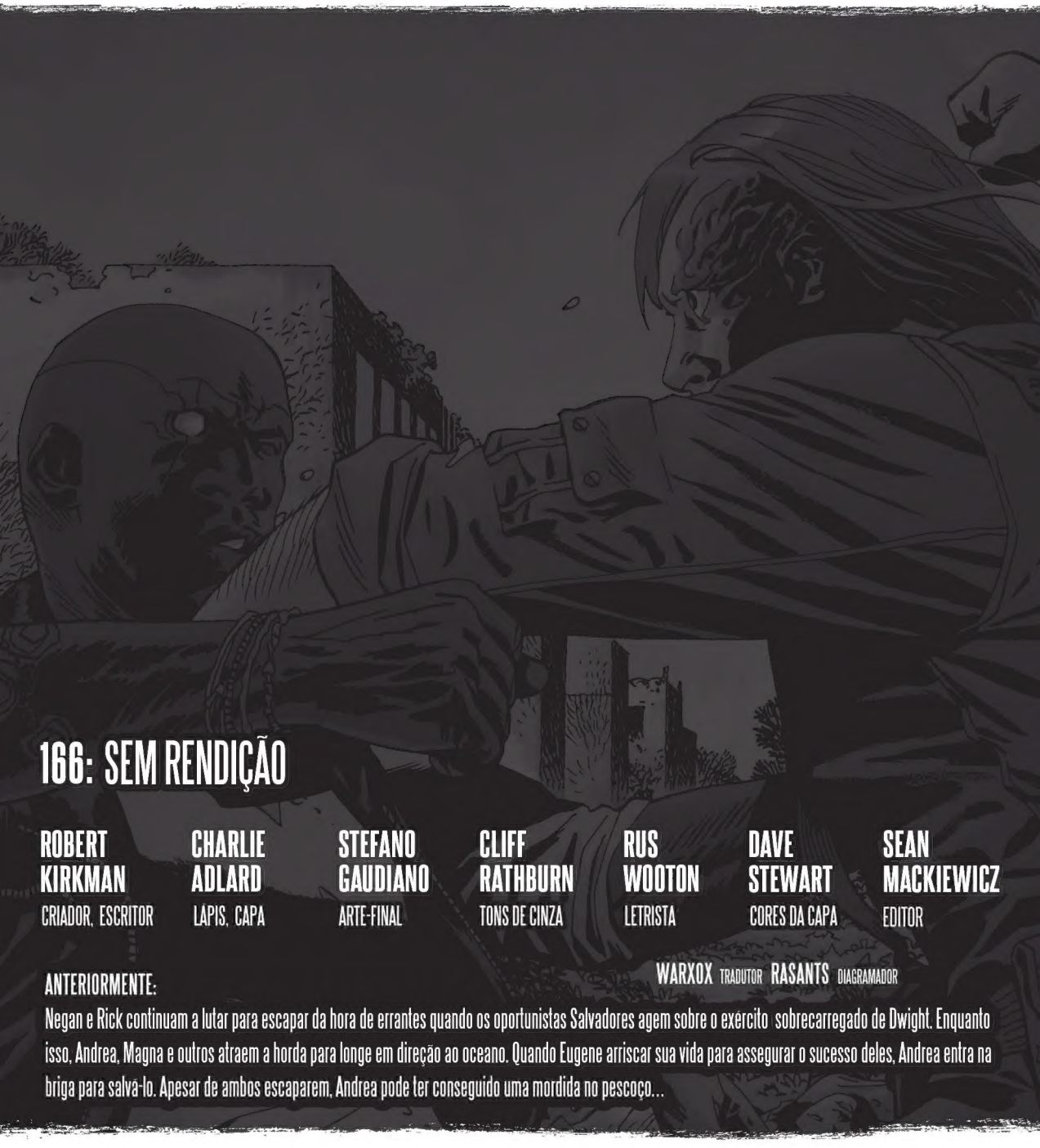
THE WALKING DEAD™



166: SEM RENDIÇÃO

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STEFANO GAUDIANO ARTE-FINAL

CLIFF RATHBURN TONS DE CINZA

RUS WOOTON LETRISTA

DAVE STEWART CORES DA CAPA

SEAN MACKIEWICZ EDITOR

WARXOX TRADUTOR **RASANTS** DIAGRAMADOR

ANTERIORMENTE:

Negan e Rick continuam a lutar para escapar da hora de errantes quando os oportunistas Salvadores agem sobre o exército sobrecarregado de Dwight. Enquanto isso, Andrea, Magna e outros atraem a horda para longe em direção ao oceano. Quando Eugene arriscar sua vida para assegurar o sucesso deles, Andrea entra na briga para salvá-lo. Apesar de ambos escaparem, Andrea pode ter conseguido uma mordida no pescoço...

SKYBOUND

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ANDREA...

EU *SEI*.

MAS... SEU PESCOÇO.

ESTÁ...

OH, DEUS...

MALDIÇÃO, EU DISSE QUE SEI!

OLHEM À SUA VOLTA! NÃO TEMOS ***TEMPO*** PARA ISTO! TEMOS QUE SAIR DAQUI ANTES QUE ESTEJAMOS ***TODOS*** MORTOS!

PARA A COSTA!

TEMOS QUE CONDUZI-LOS PARA O OCEANO ***NÃO TERMINAMOS AINDA!***

BLAM!

SEI QUE ESTÁ DIMINUINDO, MAS VOCÊ PRECISA FICAR ATRÁS DE MIM. TEM MUITOS PORTADORES DE DUAS MÃOS AINDA LÁ FORA, E VOCÊ INFELIZMENTE AINDA SÓ TEM UMA MÃO.

EU SEI, EU SEI... VOCÊ NÃO PODE FAZER *NADA*... MAS SEJAMOS REALISTAS NESSA PORRA AQUI.

SHUKK!

RICK!

OLHA QUEM FINALMENTE SAIU DO CARALHO DO ESCONDERIJO.

NÃO É A HORA.

FICO FELIZ QUE ESTEJA BEM ANNIE E EU ESTÁVAMOS

ESCONDIDOS.

TUDO LIMPO POR AQUI!

TEMOS TRABALHADO DESDE OS FUNDOS ESTÁ FEITO. NÃO PARECE TANTA COISA LÁ.

BOM TRABALHO, VINCENT. SÓ LIMPEM O PORTÃO E VEJAM QUÃO RUIM ESTÁ ALÉM. ESPERO QUE ANDREA E O RESTO ESTEJAM ESPERANDO DO OUTRO LADO PARA NOS SAUDAR.

DEVÍAMOS VOLTAR ÀS LÂMINAS POUPAR AS PISTOLAS PARA SE AS COISAS PIORAREM.

SHUKK!

SVAASH!

SVAKK!

SHRAKK!

PARE!

CARL?!

OH, DEUS *PAI*?!

FICO FELIZ E TE VER, TAMBÉM.

PORQUE ESTÁ AQUI?

HILLTOP, ELES... ELES INCENDIARAM.

NÓS CONSEGUIMOS ESCAPAR A MAIORIA DE NÓS, AO MENOS. ESTAMOS ACAMPADOS HÁ UMA MILHA.

CARL NÃO PODIA FICAR SENTADO ASSISTINDO ELE MOBILIZOU O RESTO DE NÓS NOS FEZ DAR UMA MÃO. VOCÊ DEVERIA SE ORGULHAR.

EU ESTOU.

ONDE ESTÁ MAGGIE?

JESUS E MICHONNE NOS ENCONTRARAM. MAGGIE E DANTE FORAM AJUDÁ-LOS A DISTRAIR A MANADA.

JÁ SE PASSOU UM TEMPO.

MENOS CONVERSA MAIS MATANÇA!

MERDA!

SLAASH!

CONTINUEM ORGANIZADOS E SERÁ FÁCIL! SÓ TEM

BRAKKA! BRAKKA! BRAKKA! BRAKKA!

UFA!

OBRIGADO PELA

...

FELIZ EM AJUDAR, VIZINHO.

QUE TAL NÓS GENTILMENTE NOS LIVRARMOS DAS ARMAS... VOCÊS NÃO ESTÃO EM CONDIÇÕES DE UMA LUTA.

QUE DIABOS É *ISSO?*

NEGAN, A VOCÊ, A DWIGHT... JÁ TIVEMOS O ***BASTANTE***. ESTAMOS ROMPENDO NÃO SEREMOS MAIS PARTE DE UM CLUBINHO. NÃO PRECISAMOS SER, NÃO ***QUEREMOS*** SER.

ESTAMOS FARTOS.

ENTÃO ESTÃO NOS ATACANDO? SENTIU A NECESSIDADE DE ATACAR NOSSO POVO NOS OBSERVOU DEFENDER NOSSO LAR SEM ERGUER UM DEDO PARA AJUDAR?

ESTÁ TENTANDO NOS TORNAR INIMIGOS?

ESTAMOS ENVIANDO UMA MENSAGEM NÃO QUEREMOS SER PARTE DE SEU MUNDO.

NÃO ***PRECISAMOS*** DE VOCÊS.

JOHN, JÁ CHEGA.

ISSO NÃO PRECISA SER

ESPERE!

MAS QUE PORRA ***ELE*** ESTÁ FAZENDO AQUI?!

OI, TODO MUNDO.

SENTIRAM SAUDADES? EU SENTI PRA CARALHO DE VOCÊS.

WHAKK!

EM POSIÇÃO!

NINGUÉM SE MOVE, PORRA!

ESTÃO EM DESVANTAGEM.

SUAS ARMAS SÃO MAIORES, CLARO MAS SÓ É PRECISO UMA BALA PARA IMPEDIR QUE ELAS DISPAREM.

DWIGHT...

DEIXE COMIGO.

DEIXE QUE EU CUIDO DISSO.

TODO MUNDO... *ME ESCUTEM.*

PAREM!

ABAIXEM SUAS ARMAS

AGORA!

NÃO PODE CONFIAR NESSAS PESSOAS.

DWIGHT!

OK.
OKAY.

PODEMOS ACERTAR ISSO PACIFICAMENTE... OU NO MÍNIMO, PODEMOS COMEÇAR A FAZER UMA TENTATIVA.

VOCÊ É A LÍDER DELES AGORA. O RESTO FIQUEM AQUI FORA VOCÊ ENTRA PARA PODERMOS CONVERSAR.

NÃO É?

NÃO ACHO QUE NENHUM DE NÓS QUER QUE ALGUÉM MORRA NISSO.

GOSTARIA DE UM CHÁ?

NÃO.

NÃO GOSTARIA.

OK, ENTÃO, SHERRY... VAMOS COMEÇAR.

VOCÊ ATACOU ALGUNS DO MEU PESSOAL. FERIU ELES, CLARO VOCÊ NÃO OS MATOU. POSSO DEIXAR ISSO PASSAR.

VOCÊ APARENTEMENTE FICOU SENTADA E ***ASSISTIU*** ENQUANTO RESISTÍAMOS A UM ATAQUE DE UMA MANADA ***IMENSA*** VOCÊ VIU TODOS AQUELES CORPOS NA ENTRADA. ISSO É UM POUCO DIFÍCIL DE IGNORAR, PARA SER SINCERO.

MAS AGORA VOCÊ TEM UM GRUPO DE SOLDADOS ARMADOS EM MEU PORTÃO... E PARECEU QUE ESTAVAM PRONTOS PARA UMA LUTA.

FICO FELIZ QUE SAUDOU A OPORTUNIDADE DE EVITAR ESSA LUTA. ENTÃO SÓ PRECISO TE FAZER UMA PERGUNTA...

O QUE VOCÊ QUER?

QUERO *SAIR*.

NÃO QUEREMOS SER MAIS PARTE DE SEU CLUBINHO. NÃO QUEREMOS NOS COMUNICAR COM VOCÊS. NÃO QUEREMOS PROVER RECURSOS PARA VOCÊ. NÃO QUEREMOS SER TRAZIDOS PARA QUAISQUER DE SEUS CONFLITOS.

E SE VOCÊ RESISTIR SE TENTAR MANTER ***CONTROLE*** SOBRE NÓS... PODEMOS COMEÇAR A PERCEBER QUÃO MELHOR SERIA VIVER NESSE BAIRRO EXCÊNTRICO AO INVÉS DE NUMA FÁBRICA VELHA E EMPOEIRADA.

ESTÁ COMEÇANDO COM ***AMEAÇAS?***

ESTOU INTERESSADA EM RESULTADOS.

NÃO ESTOU NO ***CONTROLE*** DE VOCÊ E DE SEU PESSOAL. SOMOS PARTE DE UMA REDE, AJUDAMOS UM AO OUTRO... PROVEMOS SEGURANÇA E ESTRUTURA.

VOCÊS NOS PROVÊEM SEGURANÇA? ONDE EU JÁ OUVI ISSO?

E ACABEI DE ***VER*** NEGAN... DO ***SEU LADO***... NÃO FOI?

...

ACHA QUE VOU DEIXAR VOCÊ ME *INTIMIDAR*, PORRA?!

WRAMM!

MAS O QUE VOCÊ?

NÃO ESTOU DE BRINCADEIRA!

ACHOU QUE PODERIA ME PEGAR SOZINHA E PRESSIONAR PARA EU ME *RENDER*? COMO SE EU FOSSE UMA MULHER ASSUSTADA QUE ME CURVARIA À SUA VONTADE?

VOCÊ DEVIA ESTAR COM *MEDO* DE ESTAR SOZINHO COMIGO!

PORQUE NÃO ESTÁ COM MEDO?

PORQUE ACHEI QUE VOCÊ FOSSE *SÃ*.

O QUE NO MUNDO TE DEU ESSA IMPRESSÃO?

EU PASSEI POR MUITA COISA AGUENTEI MUITO. AS COISAS QUE TIVE QUE FAZER PARA SOBREVIVER... COM QUEM TIVE QUE ME ALIAR ME SUBMETER PARA....

TEM UM PREÇO. ISSO PESA SOBRE VOCÊ.

SÃO. QUEM AINDA É SÃO? VOCÊ COM CERTEZA NÃO É! NÃO SEI QUANTOS DE NÓS RESTARIAM SE QUALIFICANDO COMO SÃOS.

MAS SABE O QUE É MUITO LOUCO?! VOCÊ ACHAR QUE VAMOS TODOS ***ENTRAR NA LINHA*** E FAZER O QUE NOS DISSER. ACHAR QUE EU TERIA MEDO O BASTANTE PARA DEIXAR VOCÊ *ME* DIZER O QUE FAZER.

ESSES DIAS *ACABARAM*.

ESTÁ ME OUVINDO?!

WRAKK!

ACABOU!

KRAKK!

ACABOU!

THAP!

EU PODIA *TE MATAR* AGORA!

EU PODIA TE ESTRIPAR E DEIXAR VOCÊ MORRER SANGRANDO FARIA JOHN E O RESTO DELES VARRER SEU PESSOAL ANTES QUE ELES SEQUER SOUBESSEM O QUE ACONTECEU.

NÃO!

WROKK!

ESTE MUNDO SERIA UM LUGAR MELHOR SEM PESSOAS COMO VOCÊ!

WRAKK!

VOCÊ PERDEU A CABEÇA?!

O FATO DE VOCÊ ACHAR QUE SOU LOUCA PROVA QUE ESTA É A COISA CERTA A FAZER.

WRAKK!

WRAKK!

KLAKK!

WHOOM!

RICK GRIMES *MORRE* HOJE.

PARE

PA—

WRAKK!

SNAPP!

SHUFF!

SHUFF!

SHUFF!

SHERRY?

SHERRY!

PORRA!

RICK?

ELA ESTÁ MORTA?

FOI UM ACIDENTE.

MEU DEUS...

VOCÊ

WHUDD!

ANDREA!

ANDREA?

DESCULPE, EU PERDI MEU EQUILÍBRIO ALI.

VOCÊ ESTÁ BEM?

...

NÃO MESMO.

NÃO.

LETTER HACKS

WRITE TO US AT: WALKINGDEAD@SKYBOUND.COM

I don't envy Rick right now. He's just killed the Saviors' leader...and now Andrea's arrived with some bad news. You'll have to wait at least a month to see how that goes... So let's just dive into these letters, where a whole mess of folks want to talk about the merits of Negan. (I'm very pro-Negan, by the way.)

Yeesh, Sean! You're just recapping the end of the book as an intro now? C'mon, you can do better than that! I mean, they can SEE what's right there on the left-hand page, y'know? Did the season 7 finale air before this ships? That's a big deal... really gets you jazzed for season 8, right? Which is going to be awesome!

Yeah yeah, the finale aired, but I'm just working on these comics, man. I have no idea what happened on the TV show! I have two weddings on opposite coasts by the time this issue hits stores (Congrats, Sung and Emily!). You know what? I'm not even going to defend the job I'm doing. Let's just hear your spiel and get on to the motherfucking letters for once!

And Fear The Walking Dead, which has next to no relation to the stories from this comic, but is still worth mentioning here just the same, will be starting its third season around the time of this issue shipping, so that's cool. I'm very excited about what we're doing this season. Cool stuff ahead.

So yeah, lots going on... including Andrea's current situation. MAN... where is THIS going?

Letters? Let's stop all this teasing and answer letters.

———————————

Dear Mr. Kirkman,

This is my first letter. The main reason I think that Negan is being so good is because he wants to see Rick become a worse human being than he himself. I think he will even go so far as to protect Rick from the Saviors. Why? Because he wants to rub it in Rick's face and prove that his way of leadership was just. Rick has had a lot of close calls lately. I think that he might sacrifice someone he cares about to protect himself and Carl. Given this, I can see a possible outcome where Carl, Rick and Negan duke it out over control of leadership. It might be interesting to see Negan in charge and Rick in prison. A little role reversal. Thoughts on this?

Ken

Thanks for writing in! This is all interesting stuff. Negan definitely has a motive, but it's possible that motive is just to prove that he has really changed his ways... we'll just have to wait and see.

P.S. I really enjoy reading Invincible!

It's awesome!

YES IT IS! Everyone should be reading INVINCIBLE!

———————————

Hey guys!

I want to start this letter by saying I've been a huge fan of this series for four years and I have only been disappointed a couple of times.

My only question is: will we ever have a lesbian character? As a young lesbian, it's hard to find well-written characters I can relate to, and after TV Denise died (seriously what the fuck), I decided to read this series again to distract myself from the unbearable pain and realized there are no girls like me. Carol's feelings for Lori weren't addressed properly and it made me really sad. I've always seen Sophia and Yumiko as lesbians, but it would be nice to get a confirmation. If none of your current female characters are gay, would you ever consider introducing new characters who happen to be lesbians? I really hope you decide to do that, as this is my favorite comic series and I would love to see this part of me in one of these characters.

Keep being awesome!

Daniela

Jeez... has there never been an official lesbian in this comic? Sorry, that's a huge embarrassing oversight on my part. I'd say it's a blind spot driven from my desire to avoid the "sweeps month women kissing for ratings" lesbian TV trope kind of stuff... but frankly, I kind of did just that kind of thing with Lori and Carol early in this series. I'll never be able to escape the fact that I'm a dumb white male writer. I do try to represent as many pieces of the diversity that make our world as great as possible in all my work, but I guess this is a big blind spot. Yuck. This will be remedied soon. Look at that, letters column progress.

Also, another good example of the show doing a better job than I've done with the comics. Now I can only hope Sean Mackiewicz can come in here and point out the major lesbian character that is slipping my mind.

Sorry, I'm not the federal government. No bailouts here.

Robert,

Negan likes Neil Young?! Holy shit! I didn't think I could like Negan's character anymore then I already did. That really put a smile on my face to read my favorite musician's name come out of Negan's mouth. What about you Robert? You a Neil Young fan?

***Harvest*, man! One of my favorite albums. (Who doesn't like Neil? Seriously?!)**

LOVE Neil Young, myself. Also, every fictional character I've ever created is a huge fan of Neil Young. That's canon.

Negan and Rick, rocking in the free world. That pretty much sums it up. Their interaction and dialogue in issue 164 made up for the lack of action that I was expecting so I applaud you on that sir. I really enjoyed witnessing Siddiq and Annie stumble onto Eugene's radio equipment while hiding out in his house. Just when I was starting to hold it against you for not utilizing the storyline of the radio people more you bring it right back around. It's been great getting two issues in February, please do it more often.

Sincerely yours,

Fellow Neil Young fan Brad McTaggart of Fresno, CA.

Probably won't be doing more than one issue a month for a good long while. We're only human! Or, well... I am. Charlie is a machine!

I've never written in before, but I wanted to say something.

My friends gave me the first volume of the Walking Dead right after I was paralyzed almost three years ago. Having an issue every month gave me something to look forward to when there wasn't a lot I looked forward to anymore. There was always something happening with a cliffhanger, so there was always a reason to keep going at the hardest point in my life.

As an amputee who walked with a cane, Rick gave me a role model when I didn't have many. He showed that you don't have to be able to do a lot physically to be a leader and to make a difference. I was learning how to get in a car as a fucking adult, and it made me feel better to see what Rick could do.

I'm a kick-ass athlete now and I'm fine with my life and my wheelchair, and I still look forward to this comic every month. I just wanted to thank you guys for getting me through some really hard times.

Thanks,
Hallie S.

That's awesome... and humbling. Thank YOU!

Shit, Hallie, that's awesome to hear. Congrats to you for punching through and becoming a kick-ass athlete. It's always great to hear stories like these. I've found inspiration for my life in fiction very often in the past, but it's always surprising to hear stories like these in response to this silly little zombie comic.

Kirkman,

Thanks for a great The Walking Dead Comic and now the "Here's Negan" back story in Image+. Reading both parallel now.

My questions are around Magna and company - can we expect more character development? Also, reflecting on her - we never got to see what was inside the horse drawn shipping container when she first arrived. Nuclear weapons or a year's supply of turtle wax? - still remains a box unopened - looks like they could use a Gatling Gun right now in issue 164-- if it was in there.

Lots of conjecture about Magna's arrival and now the turn of events landing in Sherry's corner as the new up and coming leader. Certainly, unexpected turn of events and lots of back story waiting to be told. How about a "Here's Magna".

Also as a fan - thanks for the 25 cent issue and the oversized nature of that issue. This fan appreciates your gesture. Congratulations on 25 years.

Doug
Canton, MA

Thanks, it's always fun to be able to do crazy things like an oversized, nearly FREE issue. Good to know they're appreciated.

As far as Magna goes... expect some development on her very soon. I know I've said it before, but it is coming. The shipping container they were on--well, just supplies, I think. It's not important now. So yeah... turtle wax and a gatling gun--but it's long gone now.

Hey Mr. Kirkman and Co.

I'll admit, my jimmies were a little rustled after reading the ending of 162. The cover had me hyped for some Andrea sniper action, as it's been too long since she's gotten a good kill streak going.

However, I have really enjoyed these past two issues. Rick and Negan's deep talk in the house this issue got me thinking, seeing as Negan is basically all the way on Rick's side at this point: Was this your idea with Negan from the beginning? Was having Dwight become a trusted lieutenant of Rick your idea from the beginning? If not, when did you decide otherwise for either?

Thanks, and keep up the fantastic work,
Cal Gunderson
Cincinnati, Ohio

Both of those stories developed as I wrote the characters. Dwight double-crossing Negan during "All Out War" sort of grew

organically as I wrote, and was not planned from the beginning. Negan was originally going to die in issue 108, so he'd have been in the book for... nine issues only. But I liked the character so much I just kept coming up with more for him to do.

I know fans seem to want to know things are planned out from the beginning because that makes things seem more well-written. It's hardly ever the case. Vince Gilligan has done writers a huge service by constantly talking about how Breaking Bad was a series of them setting up crazy future sequences, and then figuring out how to get to those moments. I plan a LOT on WALKING DEAD, I always know where I'm going... but having the freedom to change your mind and alter stories you have planned, honestly... it just makes things better. I'm certainly not just making the story up as I go along... but the times where writing gets dangerous, and you change your mind and do something new, and you have to figure out in the moment how to make it work... well, that's when writing is the most fun and rewarding, and I feel, more often than not, it makes the stories BETTER.

Ohhhh no you don't. I see what's going on here....the ol' humanize Negan trick..the "make us glad that he's not dead because he is so much more fun alive" routine...Negan and Rick bromance beginning....all s#its and giggles until ....Blam...outta nowhere Carl kills Negan.

Ah the heck with it, I'm along for the ride anyway.

Keep up the great work.

Joe Carola

You folks have ALWAYS thought that Carl is going to kill Negan. And for that very reason, I'd bet against it. (Who said Negan's dying anyways? You folks have been saying he was going to die soon since he showed up 66 issues ago!)

Yeah, guys... there are so many other deaths on the horizon you have no clue are coming. Keep focusing on Negan... heh.

Dear Mr Sean and Kirkman (Sean was put first for once),

I'm stepping aside from talking about the main comics and going back to "The Walking Dead: The Alien", what's going on with the whole story? We know the fate about Rick's little brother but what about the girl? Claudia , isn't it? Will there be a spin off story about her? Or will she ever appear in the main story, because we as fans NEED to know if she's able to get the "message" back to Richie.

Thank you.

-Brandon T.
Toronto, Canada

As soon as BKV wants to tell that story, we'd be delighted to have him tell it. They only have one more issue of Barrier to do, and then what are they going to work on next?

Yes. PLEASE... Brian and Marcos are welcome to do that any time. I want to know what happens next with Claudia, too!

I gotta be honest, Mr. K. I thought Issue #163 was underwhelming, being the 25th anniversary issue. I decided not to buy more issues after that and instead wait for the next compendium to come out. (When will that happen? Hopefully this year?)

THIS YEAR?! >choking down confusion/ rage/indignation<

(deep breaths)

(some more deep breaths)

Ok... whew... We actually get asked when the next compendium is coming out A LOT at conventions. It's been asked continuously since Compendium 2 was published. (Sean, why are you about to break it down for the folks who read TWD month in, month out? Because.) Compendium 4 will collect TWD #145-192... so we're not even halfway there yet. If we publish one issue a month, #192 will come out in June 2019... so Compendium 4 would come out that fall in time for Season fucking 10 of the AMC show.

(MORE deep breaths)

But... when does Compendium 5 come out?! And what does it collect? Seriously, Sean... do that math... when's it in stores and what season of the show (if it's still around) does that coincide with?

Compendium 5 collects TWD #193-240. At one issue a month, yada yada, it will come out October 2023 to coincide with Season 14. If society holds up that long...

Then I saw somebody claim that Issue #164 rivaled Issue #100 in greatness. So I walked six blocks to my local comic shop and picked up #164, plus a copy with its awesome Wildcats variant cover.

Well, I just finished reading #164. Everybody was right -- DAMN, what a great issue! So great to see the entire ensemble in one issue: Carl taking charge at Hilltop; Eugene and Heath's talk about usefulness; Andrea, Michonne, Maggie. Most of all, I'm loving this dynamic between Rick and Negan. I love that rumination about the expense of being alive, the toll of living. This was easily one of Negan's most powerful monologues, fucks and all.

I guess I don't have a question. I just wanted to say thanks for continually reviving my love for this story. Keep up the great work!

Xo,
kjs
Pasadena, CA

I knew you weren't going to wait two years for more TWD.

HA! Just when I thought they were out--we pulled them back in! Sweet!

———————————————

I'm a longtime, hardcore fan of both the comic and the TV show. I'm sorry, but I absolutely hate this whole 'redemption of Negan' bs and it's ruining the comic for me. I just can't see myself sticking with the show if it goes the same way.

He bashed Glenn's head in, gleefully - not some random, minor character we didn't give a shit about, Glenn.

I forget... who's Glenn?

Not cool, Sean. Not cool.

He tortured Rick and his people without remorse, and we suffered along with them. And now we're supposed to find it believable that after a couple years in a cell, he wants to be a good guy and Rick and his people are just going to forgive and accept the asshole who tormented them and beat their friends to death in front of them? C'mon.

It already felt painfully contrived for Rick to keep Negan alive in the first place, but having him let Negan go free after only two years? Nothing about that seems authentic or believable, given what we've seen Negan do to Rick's friends.

Turning our awesome hero Rick into a weak, crippled old man just so you can make Negan look like a hero feels like the death knell of the universe we've cared about for so long. It's all awkward enough in the comic, but having to watch it in live action on the tv show would be awful. We watched Negan torture and murder people we care about, and we need to see him die for it. He doesn't need to be redeemed and he sure as hell doesn't need to be the new leader.

Negan was a great villain, but it seems like you got too attached to him and couldn't let him go when his arc was done, and now you're trying to make him someone else entirely just to keep him around. Now he - and the whole story - feels forced and artificial.

Hunter Ryan
New York NY

It's possible that you're right, but I obviously disagree or I wouldn't be doing what I'm doing. That said... you don't know what Negan is up to... and you don't know what Rick is up to. I wouldn't say these two are actually friends, despite whatever Negan says. It's a complicated relationship. If I'm not accurately portraying it as complicated as I mean for it to be, that's on me. I promise it's going somewhere interesting, so if you DO stick it out to see where it's going, I appreciate it and I think you'll be rewarded. But isn't that always the hope of the writer?

———————————————

Hi, Folks - I've a quick story to tell. About an act of kindness, about an act of integrity, about the character of at least one Walking Dead fan. Two days ago, I received a package in the mail from someone named Travis Carr of Valley Center, California. I was not expecting it and had no idea who this fellow was. Around lunch time, I got around to opening it, curious why I was receiving it, skeptical that it was going to be junk mail designed to look like real mail.

In the package was another thinner package, white. I slid out an unopened mailer from Image Direct with my copy of Walking Dead #163 in it (!!!) along with a handwritten note from Mr. Carr:

Hi Arthur,

The post office delivered this to my house in Valley Center. Guess we're the 2 people in SD who get mailed copies ? Tried to get it back to you as quick as possible. I know ... the wait is real!

Anyways, Enjoy!

Sincerely,
Travis Carr

What an amazing act of kindness, right!?!?! After the the ending of Part 6 of the Whisperer War, I was getting antsy waiting for this issue. Only a real Walking Dead fan would understand what a pure act of kindness and compassion Mr. Carr's mailing the issue to me is. But more, I want to recognize the goodness and integrity, follow-through and camaraderie that this act represents. There seems to be a dearth of core character in so many people. Selfishness, laziness and a lack of responsibility for each other seem the norm. For me, a significant part of Walking Dead's greatness is that it explores these subjects in the context of a post-apocalyptic world where sometimes little but strong character matter at all. Mr. Carr has provided a shining example of the presence of what is good in human character without having to face an apocalypse for them to surface. Thank you, Mr. Carr!!! You, my friend, are a good man!!!

Anyway, my belief in Goodness has been stoked. And my commitment to this title has been reinforced. I'd like to think all Walking Dead readers are as cool as this fellow Travis Carr.

Art Shingler

Sounds like you owe Travis a beer! What a great letter to go out on.

Do you guys live in the same area? Get together! Eat some nachos! I want you two to be friends! Update us, Travis and Art! I want to know where this goes! There's a new Fast and the Furious movie coming out--go see that together!

———————————————

THE WALKING DEAD #167 is entitled "A Certain Doom". It hits stores May 3rd. See you then!

-Sean Mackiewicz

I'm going to be completely honest... here... the next issue is going to be a big deal. I know that sounds like hype... but y'know... I have the inside scoop.

-Robert Kirkman

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